

A SHORT
S T A T E
OF THE
C A S E,
With RELATION to a
C L A I M

MADE BY
RICHARD FRANCKLIN, Bookseller,
O N
DAVID MALLET, Esq;

On Account of some COPIES which are
inserted in the WORKS of the late Lord
BOLINGBROKE, publish'd by Mr. MALLET,
and which were originally printed by
RICHARD FRANCKLIN.

L O N D O N:

Printed in the Year, 1754.



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A short STATE of the CASE, with Relation to a Claim made by RICHARD FRANCKLIN, Bookseller, on DAVID MALLEY, Esq. &c.

IN the quarto Edition of the *Works of the late Lord Bolingbroke*, Price 3l. 15s. in Sheets, publish'd by Mr. MALLEY, the Reader will meet with the following Tracts, *The Occasional Writer, the Vision of Camille, Answer to the London Journal, Answer to the Defence, &c. Remarks on the History of England by Humphry Oldcastle, Esq; The Final Answer, Dissertation upon Parties.*

THAT these Tracts have been the undoubted and undisputed Right of Mr. FRANCKLIN for many Years, (the greater Part for upwards of twenty Years) is a Fact too well known to be call'd in Question. They were printed by Mr. *Francklin* (the *Occasional Writer* and the *Final Answer* excepted, which were printed as pamphlets) first in the Paper call'd the *Craftsman*; afterwards in Volumes, and since that Time separately, and have pass'd through several Editions. A valuable Consideration was long ago given to the supposed Author of the *Craftsman*, for his Share in the Property of those Pieces, and the whole is vested in Mr. *Francklin* only; who, during the Life of Lord *Bolingbroke*, continued the Publication of them, without any Lett or Molestation whatever from his Lordship.

WERE the Public to be inform'd of the Hardships which Mr. *Francklin* underwent, the Losses he sustain'd, the Prosecutions and imprisonments he suffer'd on Account of some of those Papers, they would perhaps be inclined to think that, how valuable soever the Copies might be, they were very dearly purchased.

THAT Lord *Bolingbroke* did himself imagine those Copies to be the Property of Mr. *Francklin* doth sufficiently appear, as he never during his Life-time obstructed him in the Enjoyment of them; and that, when he made the Will, on which Mr. *Mallet's* Claim is founded, he was of the same Opinion is evident from these Words in it, after having nominated

minated the *Remarks on the History of England* and the other *Traacts* printed by Mr. FRANKLIN, his Lordship says, *I do hereby, AS FAR AS BY LAW I CAN, give and assign, &c.*

THE Law we know in Regard to literary Property, and the Rights of Authors, Booksellers, Printers, &c. is extremely vague and uncertain; and no Ways have yet been found out to supply the Deficiency in this Point, but referring to general Custom in the Booksellers Trade, and an honourable Agreement between the Parties concern'd.

Mr. *Francklin's* Right is supported by Articles of Co-partnership between Mr. *Amburst* and him, for writing and printing the Paper call'd the *Craftsman*; Mr. *Francklin* paid to Mr. *Amburst* five Guineas weekly for his Moiety; and when the *Essays* were collected into Volumes, he bought of Mr. *Amburst* the sole Property and Right of printing them for his own Use and Benefit. Mr. *Amburst* was the only known or supposed Author of that Paper, and whatever Help or Assistance he might have, the Copy always went to the Press in his Hand, nor did Lord *Bolingbroke* ever send a single Line to the Printer of those Papers in his own Hand-writing. In this indeed, if Lord *Bolingbroke* was really the Author of any of these *Essays*, which Mr. *Francklin* was taken up for, † he had some Sort of Prudence in not claiming the Copy of them in his Life-time, as it might have made him liable either to have been discover'd by Mr. *Francklin*, who had great Offers made him for such Information; or have been obliged to pay Mr. *Francklin's* Expences in Law-suits and Imprisonments for some of those very Papers, which amounted to upwards of a thousand Pounds.

So many Years therefore had Mr. *Francklin* been secure in his Property, that he could have no Reason to fear any Infringement of it. That honourable Attempt was, it seems, reserved for DAVID MALLET, Esq; who, on the Death of Lord *Bolingbroke*, took Care to inform the World that he should publish a compleat Edition of ALL his Works, without considering the Claim which Mr. *Francklin* must have, if the before-mention'd Pieces were inserted, and which make near a fourth Part of the whole: However, Mr. *Millar*, Mr. *Maller's* Bookseller, did make some Proposals of Agreement concerning those *Traacts* publish'd by Mr. *Francklin*. But in that

† Mr. *Francklin* was taken up for the *Vision of Camilic*, for the *Craftsman* No. 223. for the *Craftsman* No. 224. and for No. 237. all containing Remarks on the History of England, by Humphry Oldcastle Esq;

that Interview Mr. *Millar* and Mr. *Francklin* could by no means agree, Mr. *Millar* offering too small a Sum for so large a Share as they made in the Works. Mr. *Mallet* soon after publish'd his Edition, together with all those Papers and Tracts, which were the Property of Mr. *Francklin*, who in a short Time afterwards publish'd the following Advertisement in the News-papers ;

*In the Press and speedily will be publish'd, neatly printed in FIVE
POCKET VOLUMES, Price 15s.*

All the Works of a late celebrated A U T H O R,
CONTAINING HIS
DISSERTATION upon PARTIES,
OLDCASTLE's REMARKS on the History of *England*,
A Collection of POLITICAL TRACTS, &c. &c. &c.
To which will be prefix'd, an OCCASIONAL PREFACE by
the E D I T O R.

Printed for R. FRANCKLIN in *Russel-Street, Covent-Garden.*

Mr. MALLET endeavour'd to put a Stop to this Advertisement by intimidating the Printers of those Papers, which proving ineffectual, Methods of Agreement were by the Intervention of Friends proposed on each Side, and it was at last agreed to refer the whole Matter to the Arbitration of two Gentlemen, whose Characters were unexceptionable, and to submit it intirely to their Determination. To this both Parties consented, as the most probable Means of avoiding the Trouble and Expence of Law-suits. Accordingly Mr. *Draper* (Partner with Mess. *Tonson* of the *Strand*) Bookseller, was fix'd on by Mr. *Mallet*, and Mr. *Wotton* late of *Fleet-Street*, Bookseller, by Mr. *Francklin*; both Men, whose known Worth and Integrity, as well as their Experience in, and Knowledge of Business, contributed to render them the best Judges in a Cause of this Nature. The Parties all met the 21st Day of *March*, 1754, at the *Bedford Arms* in *Covent-Garden*, when, after some Discourse of the Purport of their Meeting, Mr. *Draper* proposed Bonds of Arbitration, Mr. *Francklin* approved of it, but Mr. *Mallet* objected to it, saying *there was no Occasion for it, as he hoped they were both MEN OF* HONOUR, and as such himself, declared, *he would abide by the Decision of the two Referees* ; but at the same Time thought it was proper to enter into some Agreement in writing ; accordingly his own Referee, unacquainted with the Forms of Law, drew up the following, which was sign'd by both Parties.

MARCH

MARCH 21, 1754. It is this Day agreed between *David Mallet Esq*; and *Mr. Richard Francklin*, to refer to *Mr. Thomas Wotton* and *Mr. Somerset Draper*, what Consideration the said *Mr. Mallet* shall give the said *Mr. Francklin* for his Claim on the Works of the late *Lord Bolingbroke*, and all future Editions of the said Works.

D. MALLET.
R. FRANCKLIN.)

WHEN this Agreement was sign'd, both Parties were examined, the Substance of their Claims taken down in writing, and every Circumstance inquired into with the utmost Care and Affiduity. *Mr. Mallet* and *Mr. Francklin* retired into another Room, while the Referees debated on the Affair, who found it necessary to consider it farther; * they adjourn'd to the 28th of *March*, when they met, agreed upon, and sign'd an Arbitration, and then went to the Bedford Coffee-house to meet *Mr. Mallet* and *Mr. Francklin*, who were appointed to be there to wait their Determination, when *Mr. Draper* gave one Copy of their Award to *Mr. Francklin*, and *Mr. Wotton* gave another to *Mr. Mallet*, both of them sign'd with their Names, and is as follows,

MARCH 28th, 1754. We the underwritten, to whom *David Mallet Esq*; and *Mr. Richard Francklin* have referr'd the Consideration of what Sum the said *Mr. Mallet* shall give the said *Mr. Francklin* for his Claim on the Works of the late *Lord Bolingbroke* do recommend to and advise *Mr. Mallet* to pay *Mr. Francklin* the Sum of two hundred Guineas; for which Sum we do advise the said *Mr. Francklin* to sign a general Release to the said *Mr. Mallet* for all Claim he now has on the Quarto Edition of the said Works of the late *Lord Bolingbroke*, or shall have on any future Editions in any Size, either on his own Account for his Claim on the following Pieces, printed in the said Work, viz. *The Occasional Writer*; *The Vision of Camilic*; *Answer to the London Journal*; *Answer to the Defence*; *Remarks on the History of England by Oldcastle*; *The Final Answer*; *Dissertation on Parties*; or for the Claim of any

* Before they adjourn'd, *Mr. Wotton* ask'd *Mr. Mallet* if he printed the Pieces, which *Mr. Francklin* laid Claim to, from a Manuscript of *Lord Bolingbroke's*, or from *Mr. Francklin's* printed Copy, *Mr. Mallet's* Answer was, from the printed Copy; but being apprehensive that such an Answer might prejudice him, sent a Letter to *Mr. Draper*, in which he said, they were printed from the Dublin Edition. — Query, from what Copy was the Dublin Edition printed?

any other Person on the said Pieces. And the said Mr. *Francklin* we do advise to give the said Mr. *Mallet* a Bond in the penal Sum of two hundred Pounds to indemnify him against the Claim or Claims of any other Person or Persons to the above Pieces. And we do advise that Mr. *Francklin* be permitted to continue selling, or to reprint and sell the above Pieces separate from the Works of the said late Lord *Bolingbroke*, in the same Manner and with the same Titles he has prefix'd to the last Editions and sold them by. — We mean that Mr. *Mallet* may sell, in the present Edition in Quarto and reprint and sell in any Edition in any Size whatever, the abovenamed Pieces, together with the other Works of Lord *Bolingbroke*, but not separately. — And Mr. *Francklin* may sell the said Pieces separately and as they are now sold by the said Mr. *Francklin*, but not with any other Pieces wrote or supposed to be wrote by the said late Lord *Bolingbroke*. And we also recommend to Mr. *Francklin* to permit an Advertisement to be inserted in the public News-Papers that he does not design to publish an Edition of the said late Lord *Bolingbroke's* Works in any Size or at any Price whatever.

SOMERSET DRAPER.
THOMAS WOTTON.

Mr. *Francklin* imagined the Affair now concluded, and only Time was wanting to put the Award in Execution, but to his great Surprise, saw on the 3d of *April* following (six days after the Arbitrators had deliver'd their Award) a Notice sent to the Referees in these Words;

Mess. WOTTON and DRAPER,

I do give you Notice that I do retract and revoke all my Submission to the Award of you or either of you touching any Controversies or Differences between me and Mr. *Richard Francklin*, and do hereby discharge you and each of you from proceeding to make any such Award. Witness my Hand this third Day of *April* one thousand seven hundred and fifty four.

DAVID MALLET. †

THESE are the Facts, which have been recited as briefly as possible. Whether Mr. *Mallet* or Mr. *Francklin* might either of them have taken better Measures to ascertain their several Claims, or in what Manner the Law might determine them,
are

† Mr. *Mallet* here owns the Award made, and revokes his Submission to it, and then bids the Referees not proceed to do what was already done.

are Points we apprehend foreign to the Purpose; the only Thing to be laid before the Public being no more than this plain Question,—Whether, after a solemn Agreement, sign'd by both Parties, to refer the Affair to Arbitration, and after an Award given to both, either of them could recede from it? Mr *Francklin* on his Part submitted to the Award: Mr. *Mallet* refused.

THE Reflections, that the Reader must make on this Transaction, are so obvious that it would be unnecessary to point them out. It will be sufficient to observe, that it is Matter of great Astonishment to see, under Mr. MALLET'S own Hand, a Notice sent to his own Referee to retract and revoke what UNDER HIS OWN HAND likewise he had solemnly engaged, as a Man of Honour, to agree to.



FINIS.

